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### Challenges of cultural catastrophe topic of UM lecture

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Oct. 25, 2007

**Contact:** Professor Richard Drake, UM Department of History, 406-243-2981,  
richard.drake@umontana.edu.

### **CHALLENGES OF CULTURAL CATASTROPHE TOPIC OF UM LECTURE**

#### **MISSOULA—**

The next installment of the President's Lecture Series at The University of Montana will explore how societies and their leaders carry on in the face of cultural catastrophe.

Psychoanalyst and philosophy Professor Jonathan Lear will present "Dignity, Integrity and Courage in the Face of Cultural Attack" at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 1, in the University Center Ballroom.

Lear will discuss ideas and implications from his recent book, "Radical Hope: Ethics in the Face of Cultural Devastation." The book is a highly acclaimed study of the courage and wisdom of Chief Plenty Coups, leader of the Crow Nation when the tribe was forced to move onto a reservation.

The event is the Henry Bugbee Annual Lecture in Philosophy in conjunction with UM's College of Arts and Sciences.

Earlier that day from 3:40 to 5 p.m., Lear will give a seminar titled "The Use of Myth in Plato's 'Republic'" in Gallagher Business Building Room 123.

Both events are free and open to the public.

Lear is the John U. Nef Distinguished Service Professor in the Committee on Social

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Thought and the Department of Philosophy at the University of Chicago.

He received a master's degree in philosophy from the University of Cambridge and a doctorate in philosophy from Rockefeller University. He also trained as a psychoanalyst at the Western New England Institute for Psychoanalysis.

He is the author of several books, including "Therapeutic Action: An Earnest Plea for Irony," "Happiness, Death and the Remainder of Life," "Open Minded: Working Out the Logic of the Soul" and "Love and its Place in Nature."

A complete schedule of UM's President's Lecture Series is online at  
<http://www.umt.edu/president/pls>.

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